

# Ojibwe

Towards a prosodic analysis of the morphological template

Christopher Hammerly (UBC) and Natalie Weber (Yale)

# About Ojibwe

- **Anishinaabemowin** (Ojibwe language, among other regional/historical names) is spoken by the **Anishinaabe**.
- **Region:** In Canada, it is spoken throughout much of Ontario and into Manitoba and Quebec (outlying communities in westwardly provinces), and in the US from Michigan to North Dakota (outlying communities in Montana).
- We are focusing on **Southwestern Ojibwe**, as represented in the *Ojibwe People's Dictionary*, spoken in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Canadian Border Lakes communities.

(Ojibwe People's Dictionary 2022; Nichols 1995; Valentine 2001)

# This project: Outlook and template

- We are still early in the work for Ojibwe, but we can discuss what we've done and where we plan to go (and get your feedback/thoughts!)

*Rough and incomplete template:* PREVERB-INITIAL-FINAL

- Question: What is the prosodic structure of the morphological template? Do initials and finals stand in different relationships?
- Diagnostic: Compare and contrast these two junctures:

PREVERB-INITIAL-FINAL

PREVERB-INITIAL-FINAL

(Nichols 1980; Piggott 1980; Rhodes 1976; Valentine 2001)

# This project: Outlook and template

- Diagnostic: Compare and contrast these two junctures:

PREVERB-INITIAL-FINAL

PREVERB-INITIAL-FINAL

- Strategy:
  - Characterize phonological profile of right and left edges
  - Determine phonological/prosodic processes that occur in each environment
  - Compare processes between environments and languages (within Algonquian and beyond)
- Doing our own work with the Ojibwe People's Dictionary, and are searching through previous literature, but would love suggestions of previous work.

# Methods



minwate vii ES Listen

it is a nice house, is a nice room; it (a dwelling) is in good order

**minwate** *0s ind*; **minwateg** *0s conj*; **menwateg** *0s ch-conj*; Stem: /minwate-/

▼ Audio for Basic Forms

- minwate** *0s ind* ES Listen
- minwateg** *0s conj* ES Listen
- menwateg** *0s ch-conj* ES Listen

▼ Word Parts

**minwate** /minwate-/; [/minw-/](#) good; /-ate/ it is or is in an interior space, a room, a house

- Ikidowinan Homepage
- Dashboard
- Statistics
- Pages
- Navigation Links
- Tag Searches
- Translations
- Users
- Main Entries
- Word Families
- Keywords
- Keyword Groups
- Glosses
- Gloss Sense Groups
- Inflectional Forms
- Sentences
- People
- Word Lookups
- Word Histories
- Reduplicated Forms
- Related Word Groups
- Word Parts
- Sources

Word Parts

Search  all records by Form with type  initial :

Starts with  Search

Actions	Form	Type	Subtypes	Meaning
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">dakokii</a>	final	vai	s/he steps
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">akide</a>	final	vii	it stands (as a structure, a plant, a tree), is set up
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">ashid</a>	initial	root	up against, alongside, next to
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">wawiyad</a>	initial	root	amusing, funny, cute
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">adaawang</a>	medial	classifier	granular: particle, sand
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">binzikawaagane</a>	medial	deverbial	coat, jacket
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">minag</a>	medial	classifier, post-medial	berrylike; grain; small and round
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">k</a>	final	vii	act on it by foot or body
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">iinad</a>	final	vii	there is such an amount or number of it
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">iino</a>	final	vai	there is such an amount or number of it/ or it (animate)
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">and</a>	final	vii	act on it by mouth or teeth
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">aa</a>	final	vii	it is in a state or condition
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">ziidaw</a>	initial	root	stiff, rigid, inflexible
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">ninji</a>	medial	body part, post-medial	hand
<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">gizib</a>	initial	root	squeak, squeal

/-ninjy-/ + /-a/	
	Y
	Y
	Y

# [Ojibwe] Annotated spreadsheet by initial

1	Initial UR	Initial Gloss	Final UR	Final Gloss	Morphemic analysis (surface)	Original Word	Gloss
142	madwe-	heard, audible	-aasin	it is blown by the	madwe-bag-aasin	madwebagaasin	the leaves can be heard blowing in the
143	madwe-	heard, audible	-am	act on h/ by mou	madwe-_m	madwem	chew it (animate) audibly
144	madwe-	heard, audible	-and	act on it by mout	madwe-_nd-an	madwendan	chew it audibly
145	mane-	scarce, lack, need	-izi	s/he, it (animate)	mane-zi-n	manezin	s/he is in need of, is short of (it)
146	mang-	big	-izi	s/he, it (animate)	mang-ade-zi	mangadezi	s/he is wide
147	minw-	good	-aabi	s/he looks, has s	minw-aabi	minwaabi	s/he has good eyesight, sees well
148	minw-	good	-ate	it is or is in an in	minw-ate	minwate	it is a nice house, is a nice room; it (a
149	minw-	good	-bii	s/he or it (animat	min-o-bii	minobii	s/he drinks and is merry
150	minw-	good	-enim	act by thought or	minw-enim	minwenim	like h/
151	minw-	good	-gaabawi	h/ stands	min-o-gaabawi	minogaabawi	s/he stands well; s/he is in good stand
152	minw-	good	-taw	hear h/	min-o-taw	minotaw	like hearing h/, like how s/he sounds
153	misaw-	desire	-enim	act by thought or	misaw-enim	misawenim	want, desire h/
154	misaw-	desire	-n	see it	misaw-i-n-an	misawinan	wish to have it
155	misaw-	desire	-naw	see h/	misaw-i-naw	misawinaw	wish to have h/; be envious of h/
156	miskw-	red	-aa	it is in a state or	misk-o-bag-aa	miskobagaa	there are red leaves



# [Ojibwe] Annotated spreadsheet by final

1	Initial UR	Initial Gloss	Final UR	Final Gloss	Morphemic analysis (surface)	Original Word	Gloss
89	agaas-	small	-ate	it is or is in an int	agaas-ate	agaasate	it is a small house or room
90	biin-	clean	-ate	it is or is in an int	biin-ate	biinate	it is a clean house or room
91	dak-	cool, chilly, cold	-ate	it is or is in an int	dak-ate	dakate	it (a room or house) is cold
92	giizhoo-	warm	-ate	it is or is in an int	giizhoo-_te	giizhoote	it is warm inside
93	minw-	good	-ate	it is or is in an int	minw-ate	minwate	it is a nice house, is a nice room; it (a
94	waase-	clear, light	-ate	it is or is in an int	waase-_te	waasete	it is or gets bright inside
95	dwaa-	going through the	-bide	it moves without	dwaa-bid-e	dwaabide	it drives through ice
96	akw-	a certain length, sc	-bii	s/he or it (animal	ak-o-bii	akobii	s/he is so far into the water
97	akw-	a certain length, sc	-bii	liquid, water, slus	ak-o-bii	akobii	it has water or liquid in it so high
98	deb-	enough, adequate	-bii	it is or does relat	deb-i-bii	debibii	it fits (of liquid); it adequately holds (sc
99	gaw-	prostrate, down ar	-bii	s/he or it (animal	gaw-i-bii	gawibii	s/he falls down drunk
100	minw-	good	-bii	s/he or it (animal	min-o-bii	minobii	s/he drinks and is merry
101	naad-	fetch, go get, appr	-bii	s/he or it (animal	naad-oob-ii	naadoobii	s/he goes to get water or other liquid;
102	naad-	fetch, go get, appr	-bii	s/he or it (animal	naaz-i-bii	naazibii	s/he goes down to the water, goes aft
103	dwaa- [NW]	going through the	-bii [NW]	liquid, water, slus	dwaa-'i-bii	dwaa'ibii	s/he makes a water hole in the ice





# Preliminary results

# What segments can initials (roots) end with?

We used the underlying analysis in OPD to first test: Are there any roots that clearly end in a short vowel?

- **One** listed under **short o**: *niiwo-* ‘four’
- **Two** listed under **short i**: *izi-* (no translation given), *wiidabi-* ‘sit with’
- **None** listed under **short a**
- NB: some listed as /...Cw/ with a variant [...Co]

# What segments can initials (roots) end with?

## Ruling out the exceptions

- *niiwo-* ‘four’
  - Likely a variant of the *niiw-* or *niiy-*, which also means ‘four’
- *izi-* (no translation given)
  - Likely a variant of *iN*, which means ‘thus, in a certain direction/manner’
- *wiidabi-* ‘sit with’
  - In fact, this is an internally complex initial + final: *wiid-* ‘with’ + *abi-* ‘sit’

**Conclusion: roots/initials only end in C or VV**

# An initial comparison with preverbs

Conclusion: roots/initials only end in C or VV

This is different than what we see with preverbs in Ojibwe:

- If anything, it is *characteristic* of preverbs to end in a short vowel (especially -i, which is a “preverb forming final”
  - *Agaasi-* ‘small’ (underlying analysis: *aagas + i*)
  - *Aako-* ‘agressively’ (underlying analysis: *aakw + i*)
  - *Wenda-* ‘really, completely’
- Gives a first point of leverage to see the difference between these positions in the template

# Finals starting with short vowels (a first pass)

<u>Final</u>	<u>C-V</u>		<u>VV-V</u>	
/-izi/	<i>deb-izi</i>	‘ANIM is satisfied’	<i>gizhoo-zi</i>	‘ANIM are warm’
/-ate/	<i>biin-ate</i>	‘INAN is a clean room’	<i>waase-te</i>	‘INAN is bright inside’

- Short vowels occur after consonants.
- Short vowels delete after long vowels.

[There are more contexts here to explore (e.g. initials ending in “w”)]

# Finals with long vowels

Final

C-VV

VV-VV

/-aa/      *agaas-aa* ‘INAN is small’

*Gizhoo-y-aa* “INAN is warm”

/-enim/    *git-enim* ‘think highly of ANIM’

*inigaa-y-enim* “dislike ANIM”

/-oom/      *bim-oom* ‘INAN is small’

*agwaa-y-oom* ‘carry ANIM to shore on back’

- Long vowels occur after consonants.
- Long vowels are separated by a glide from long vowels.

Future work and discussion

# What about consonants+consonants?

- Epenthesis of [i]? (Kaye & Piggott 1973; Truitner & Dunnigan 1975)

/-shin/     *gizhoo-shin*     ‘ANIM lies in warmth’

/-shin/     *deb-ishin*     ‘ANIM lies fitting in’

- But this is the same pattern as finals that begin in a vowel

/-izi/     *gizhoo-zi*     ‘ANIM are warm’

/-izi/     *deb-izi*     ‘ANIM is satisfied’

- Palatalization? (Kaye & Piggott 1973; Truitner & Dunnigan 1975)

*apiit* ‘so much’ + *shin* ‘ANIM lies’     = *apiich-ishin* ‘ANIM lies to such a height’

*apiit* ‘so much’ + *izi* ‘ANIM is in a state’     = *apit-izi* ‘ANIM is of such an age’



# What about preverbs?

While it is clear there are differences in the phonological environment entailed by initials vs. preverbs, are there differences in the prosodic processes?

An example:

*Ogii-bichi-apagajwebishkawaan iniw owijiiwaaganan imaa jaangaanig.*

“He accidentally bumped his teammate into the corner.”

When we listen to this recording, the final [i] in *bichi-* is deleted, despite spelling.

BUT we know that vowel hiatus can also be **tolerated**, resolved with **glide** or **glottal stop** insertion, or resolved with **deletion**.

(Bloomfield 1957; Lochbihler 2017; Newell & Piggott 2014; Piggott & Travis 2013; Valentine 2001)

# What we've learned so far

We confirm previous observations at the initial-final juncture:

- Short vowels delete after a long vowel
- Glides are inserted between two long vowels
- Generally, vowel hiatus is not tolerated (see also Valentine 2001; Piggott & Newell 2014)

We discover new observations:

- Initials cannot end in a short vowel (only in C or VV)

And our very preliminary results for preverbs (also see, e.g., Nichols 1980):

- These process also occur at the preverb-initial juncture, but the parameters of variation are not yet clear.

# Thanks!

Especially to Nora Livesay for answering lots of questions about the Ojibwe People's Dictionary.

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